

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A stress-at work judging apparatus comprising:

myoelectric potential signal input means for receiving a myoelectric potential signal from a masseter muscle of a test subject during a target work activity, the target work activity performed by exercise of the muscles in an arm or leg of the test subject, not by exercise of the jaws of the test subject; performed through a movement of a muscle independent of a movement of the masseter muscle which is opening and closing jaws of the test subject; and

stress judging means for judging stress of the test subject during the target work activity from an intensity or time-varying change of the myoelectric potential signal showing a change in the movement of the masseter muscle which appears when the target work activity acts as a stressor on the test subject inputted through the myoelectric potential signal input means; and
a display for displaying a result from the stress judging means,

wherein the stress judging means excludes from a target period for stress judgment a period of work activity comprising opening and closing the jaws.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The stress-at-work judging apparatus according to claim 2 ~~1~~, wherein the stress judging means specifies the period during which ~~the test subject performs the predetermined work activity which uses the masseter muscle independently of the target work activity~~ the test subject is opening and closing the jaws, from by recognizing voice data acquired by inputting recording a speech of the test subject or from image data acquired by inputting an image of a face of the test subject.

4. (Currently Amended) The stress-at-work judging apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any one of claim 1 through 3~~, wherein the target work activity is a vehicle steering operation performed by the test subject.

5. (Currently Amended) A stress-at-work judging computer ~~computer-executable~~ program product for causing a computer to perform stress-at-work judgment, the computer ~~computer-executable~~ program product comprises:

an input procedure instruction for ~~causing calculating means of the computer to receive~~ receiving a myoelectric potential signal from a masseter muscle of a test subject during a target work activity, the target work activity performed by exercise of the muscles in an arm or leg of

~~the test subject, not by exercise of the jaws of the test subject, the myoelectric potential signal being inputted through a myoelectric potential signal input means; performed through a movement of a muscle independent of a movement of the masseter muscle which is opening and closing jaws of the test subject; and~~

~~a judgment procedure instruction for causing the calculating means of the computer to judge judging stress of the test subject during the target work activity from an intensity or time-varying change of the myoelectric potential signal showing a change in the movement of the masseter muscle which appears when the target work activity acts as a stressor on the test subject inputted through the myoelectric potential signal input means; and~~

~~a display instruction for displaying a result of stress judgment,~~

~~wherein the judgment instruction excludes from a target period for stress judgment a period of work activity comprising opening and closing the jaws.~~

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The stress-at-work judging computer program product according to claim 6 ~~5~~, wherein ~~the judgment procedure instruction causes the calculation means to specify~~ specifies the period during which the test subject performs the predetermined work activity which uses the masseter muscle independently of the target work activity ~~the test subject is opening and closing the jaws from by recognizing voice data acquired by inputting recording a speech of the test subject or from image data acquired by inputting an image of a face of the test subject.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The stress-at-work judging program product according to claim 5 ~~any one of the claims 5 through 7~~, wherein the target work activity is a vehicle steering operation performed by the test subject.

9. (Currently Amended) A stress-at-work judging method comprising:

a myoelectric potential signal input step of for receiving a myoelectric potential signal from a masseter muscle of a test subject during a target work activity, the target work activity performed by exercise of the muscles in an arm or leg of the test subject, not by exercise of the jaws of the test subject, the myoelectric potential signal being inputted through a myoelectric potential signal input means; performed through a movement of a muscle independent of a movement of the masseter muscle which is opening and closing jaws of the test subject; and

a stress judging step of for judging stress of the test subject during the target work activity from an intensity or time-varying change of the myoelectric potential signal showing a change in the movement of the masseter muscle which appears when the target work activity acts as a stressor on the test subject inputted through the myoelectric potential signal input means; and
a display step for displaying a result of the stress judgment step,
wherein the stress judging step excludes from a target period for stress judgment a period of work activity comprising opening and closing the jaws.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The stress-at-work judging method according to claim 10 9, wherein the stress judging step ~~includes specifying~~ specifics the period during which the ~~test subject performs the predetermined work activity which uses the masseter muscle independently of the target work activity~~ the test subject is opening and closing the jaws, from ~~by recognizing~~ voice data acquired by inputting recording a speech of the test subject ~~or from image data acquired by inputting an image of a face of the test subject.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The stress-at-work judging method according to claim 9 ~~any one of claims 9 through 11~~, wherein the target work activity is a vehicle steering operation performed by the test subject.

13. (New) The stress-at-work judging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the stress judging means specifies the period during which the test subject is opening and closing the jaws, by visually recognizing video data acquired by shooting a face of the test subject.

14. (New) The computer program product according to claim 5, wherein the judgment instruction specifies the period during which the test subject is opening and closing the jaws, by visually recognizing video data acquired by shooting a face of the test subject.

15. (New) The stress-at-work judging method according to claim 9, wherein the stress judging step specifies the period during which the test subject is opening and closing the jaws, by visually recognizing video data acquired by shooting a face of the test subject.